

A new species of *Latirus* (Gastropoda: Fasciolariidae) from the southern Philippines

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ABSTRACT. A new deep-water gastropod species from Talikud Island, Gulf of Davao, southern Mindanao, Philippine Islands, assigned to the family Fasciolariidae, is described and compared with its closest relatives, *Latirus recurvirostrum* (Schubert & Wagner, 1829), *L. paetelianus* (Kobelt, 1876), and *L. kandai* Kuroda, 1950.

INTRODUCTION

Many new fascioliid gastropods, mostly deep-water taxa, have come to light in the last few years. Recently, six new *Fusinus* (Hadorn & Rogers, 2000), and one new *Latirus* (Snyder, 2000) were described from the Western Atlantic alone, and several new taxa from the Indian Ocean have also come to light. Now, a handsome new *Latirus* has just been obtained in Talikud Island.

Talikud Island, located in the Gulf of Davao, in southern Mindanao, Philippine Islands, has been an important locality for tangle net operations for a number of years. Regardless of this fact, new species of mollusks continue to be caught in the tangle nets set by the fishermen in deep water, usually in about 200 m.

Mr. Al Deynzer, a shell dealer and miter enthusiast, has been in contact for many years with the Talikud fishermen that carry out these operation, and has recently brought back the remarkable new *Latirus* herewith described.

SYSTEMATICS

Family FASCIOLARIIDAE Gray, 1853

Genus *Latirus* Montfort, 1810

Latirus aldeynzeri, new species
(Figures 1 & 2, text figure 1)

Description

Holotype 90.2 mm in length, broadly fusiform, prominently fan-shaped dorsally at anterior end, creating a wide, funnel-like umbilicus when seen ventrally; moderately heavy, with strong axial and spiral sculpture. Protoconch white, with convex whorls; surface eroded. Teleoconch of about 8.5 tabulated whorls with 7 rather sharp, rounded axial ribs; ribs about equal in width to interspaces in early whorls, becoming somewhat narrower than interspaces in last whorl; inconspicuous axial growth

lines covering surface of shell, giving a corrugated appearance to surface when crossed by spiral cords; at times showing lamellations, particularly so between labial and penultimate axial ribs. Spiral sculpture of well-defined cords, 20 between top of shoulder and base of last whorl, alternating in strength, most conspicuous cords at shoulder, at base of last whorl and at anterior fan-shaped end. Aperture widely ovate, lirate within; outer lip thin, crenulated; parietal wall erect anteriorly; siphonal canal open, long, strongly recurved. Surface color and spiral cords yellowish-white, burned-orange on axial ribs and fan-shaped anterior end; aperture porcellaneous white within, with color pattern of outer surface showing at edge of outer lip. Operculum 9.7 mm in length, corneous, rather thin, dark brown, with terminal nucleus. Periostracum unknown.

Type material

Holotype (The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA 407935) length 90.2 mm, width 39.4 mm (Figs. 1 & 2). Paratype (Peter G. Stimpson collection) length 90.0 mm, width 35.4 mm.

Type Locality

Talikud Island, Gulf of Davao, southern Mindanao, Philippine Islands, in 200 m.

Distribution

Talikud Island, Gulf of Davao, southern Mindanao, Philippine Islands, and off Katang Province, Thailand, Andaman Sea, in deep water.

Etymology

Named for Mr. Albert E. Deynzer, the well-known seashell dealer from Sanibel Island, Florida, who donated the specimen.

Discussion

In the October, 1974 issue of *Hawaiian Shell News*, appeared in the "Little Stranger" section, presented by the well-known collector Elmer G. Leehman, a picture of a *Latirus* (text figure 1) that is undisputably the same taxon as that of the new species. It was obtained by Mr. Arun Chaiseri in Phuket, southwestern Thailand. Mr. Chaiseri commented on the "wierd" (sic) shape of the shell, and was not sure of the family to which it belonged. He states that "the shell is fusiform, moderately slender, spire high and anterior canal rather long. The whorls are rounded with prominent axial folds crossed by numerous spiral cords, outer lip finely toothed with a funnel shaped umbilicus". He continues: "This shell is 86.4 millimeters in length. Color varies from a light yellow in the depressed zone to dark orange on top (of) the nodules. This specimen was live taken and trawled in very deep water off Katang Province in Thailand." Although smaller in size than the holotype, Mr. Chaiseri's specimen shows a more mature lip, as well as a better developed siphonal canal with an almost totally enclosed tip. The holotype has a very thin lip and an open siphonal canal.

A second, live-collected specimen of this taxon was shown to me by Mr. Peter G. Stimpson, of Loudon, Tennessee. It is almost an exact duplicate of the holotype and is herewith designated as paratype. Mr. Stimpson bought it from someone who deals mostly on Philippine shells, and it is presumed that his specimen came from that area.

The structural characteristics of the anterior end of this new taxon separate it from most *Latirus*. Completely mature *Latirus recurvirostrum* (Schubert & Wagner, 1829) (Fig. 3 & 4) have a somewhat similarly developed anterior end. However, the latter differs from the new taxon in having a more tubular, less fan-shaped anterior end; in almost totally lacking spiral sculpture in apical whorls; in showing wider, much less numerous spiral cords in body whorl, with a maximum of 7 from top of shoulder to base of whorl; in having wider, less rounded axial ribs; in having an almost solid tan coloration; and in having tan colored aperture. Moreover, the periphery of the umbilical area of *L. recurvirostrum* shows an axially oriented growth pattern in the form of heavy crenulations, instead of the well-defined, barely corrugated spiral cord of *Latirus aldeynzeri*. The Australian form of *Latirus paetelianus* (Kobelt, 1876) also develops a heavy fasciole and a somewhat wide umbilicus (see Wilson, 1994). However, it only reaches 60 mm in length and is uniform orange-brown in coloration. *Latirus kandai* Kuroda, 1950, a species that occurs from Japan to the Philippines (see Springsteen & Leobrera, 1986), has the same general sculpture and coloration of *Latirus aldeynzeri*. However, the latter rarely reaches more than 56 mm, has more rounded, less angular whorls, and does not

develop the funnel-like umbilicus of the new taxon.

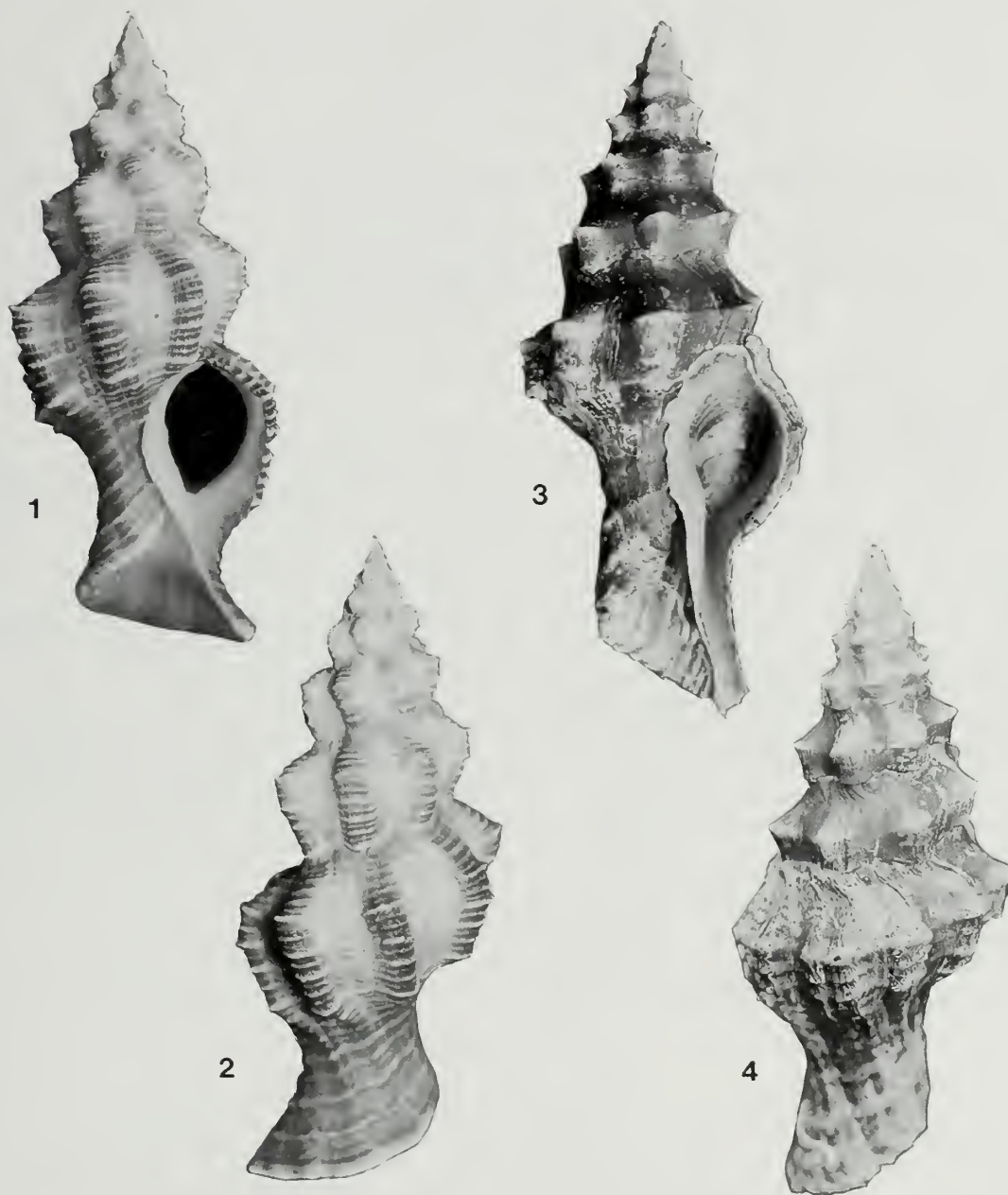


Text Fig. 1. *Latirus aldeynzeri* n. sp. (86.4 mm) off Katang Province, Thailand, Andaman Sea, in deep water. Reproduced from *Hawaiian Shell News*.

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1-2. *Latirus aldeynzeri* n. sp. Holotype (90.2 mm x 40.4 mm) Ventral and dorsal view. Talikud Island, southern Mindanao, Philippine Islands, in 200 m.

3-4 *Latirus recurvirostrum* (Schubert & Wagner, 1829) (96.3 mm x 35.7 mm) Itupunmatsu, Minabe-cho, Wakayama Prefecture, Japan.